



# Grace Lutheran Church

Manitowoc, Wisconsin

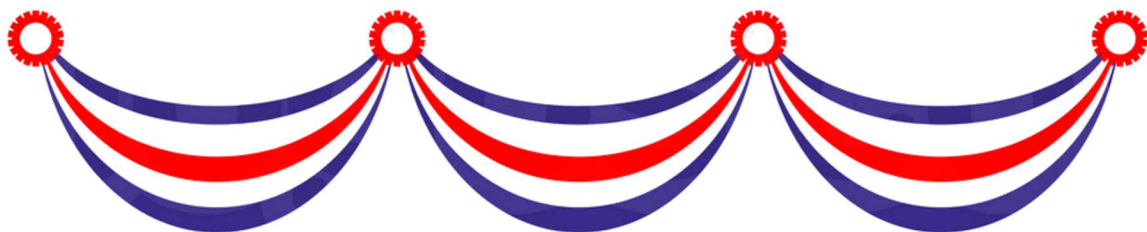
*“His Light on the Lakeshore”*

*July 2024 Congregational Newsletter*



Redeemer of the World, you once came on a rescue mission to deliver humanity from bondage to sin, death, and the devil. In you alone can true freedom be found. Your blood bought our freedom. Our souls are no longer slaves to sin, and death is not our master. But you have not promised us an earthly life free from danger or oppression. You have promised to give us the strength to overcome Satan and his allies. You have assured us that the Crown of Life is waiting for all who put their trust in you. And, Lord, you have added to this blessing. You have allowed us to live in a country that gives us the freedom to serve

and worship you without hindrance. Our laws grant us personal freedoms that so many of the people of this world do not have. Our nation's law enforcement officers and our nation's military personnel stand behind those laws and defend those freedoms. We thank you for these undeserved gifts, and we ask that you preserve these freedoms for our children, and their children's children. Do not let our indifference or negligence forfeit these gifts. Do not let us forget that these freedoms come not as the result of our wisdom or strength, but only from your gracious hand. Jesus, you once said that those whom the Son makes free are free indeed. Keep us in this freedom no matter what may be taking place in our life, or the world around us. We thank you, Lord, for our country. Hold it always in the palm of your hand. We thank you Lord for freedom. Amen.





## JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS!



**Installation of Preschool Director Debbi Heiderich**

**Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> During the 9:00 A.M. Service**

**Installation of Our New Pastor - Ryan Henning**

**Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> During a Special 3:00 P.M. Service**

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### **Some Final Thoughts from Outgoing Vacancy Pastor David Laabs**

**Worship:** I will be handling the service from now until July 21. I have agreed to complete a basic plan for worship for the first month of Pastor Hennings ministry. It will help him for a smooth transition.

**Transition:** I have been serving as your vacancy pastor for two years. Obviously there will be a lot of pastoral information that needs to be shared with your new pastor. We have spoken extensively earlier and plan to get together after he has completed his vacation.

**Installation:** I have spoken with Pastor Phil Henning, your new pastor's father, who will be presiding at the installation. We plan to jointly plan the service and to print the service folder in Grace's office. I would encourage the idea of providing a small choir for the service and would be willing to participate.

**Suggestions:** We have discussed many things during my two years at Grace. After reflecting on that time and those discussions, I would like to leave you with the following suggestions:

1. Please follow through with the discussions we had about seeking outside counsel to determine the focus and mission of the congregation. Pastor Henning will be brand new and I think would appreciate the direction that such an exercise would offer.
2. I believe that it would be in the best interest of the congregation and WELS congregations in Manitowoc to have discussions about cooperative ministry in Manitowoc. While the congregations in the city are relatively healthy, there are areas where duplicate ministry could be replaced by additional ministry, particularly outreach to the community.
3. I would recommend that you consider having two services, not three, throughout the year. My reasons would be to improve fellowship in the congregation and to avoid instances where there are only a handful of people at a service. The congregation should determine the times.
4. After a time of transition to a new pastor, consider taking a critical look at the bylaws of the congregation. The current bylaws place too much responsibility on too few people. With the member ministry program coming online, it is time to get more people involved in meaningful ministry.

It has been a joy to serve you as a vacancy pastor. I have made many new friends and I rejoice with all of you that the Lord has sent you a pastor. I will continue to pray for you and Pastor Henning and I look forward to seeing you in the Manitowoc Community in the future. God bless you all!

**FAREWELL FOR PASTOR LAABS JULY 21<sup>st</sup> AFTER THE 9:00 A.M. SERVICE!**

# GET TO KNOW OUR NEW PASTOR AND HIS WIFE

## RYAN AND CAIT HENNING



Ryan Henning was born in Two Rivers, WI to parents Phil Henning (New Ulm, MN) and Karlene Sonntag (née Kander; Stanton, NE), and was baptized at Our Savior Lutheran Church. He spent his childhood in Jenera, OH and was confirmed at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Lincoln, NE. He attended Nebraska Evangelical Lutheran High School in Waco, NE.

Ryan attended Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN, and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Music in 2017. He received a one-year call to teach 5th and 6th grade and K-8 music at Trinity Lutheran School in Belle Plaine, MN, and then he returned to MLC to complete a two-year Seminary Certification program, during which he studied Greek and Hebrew.

Ryan began his studies at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI in 2020. While there, he participated in Seminary Chorus and frequently played organ and piano for Chorus and for chapel. Ryan served two years as president of  $\eta\beta\rho$  [*Eta Beta Rho*], a National Scholastic Honor Society for Students of Hebrew Language and

Culture. He was also part of the Seminary Worship Planning Committee. He completed his Vicar year [*internship*] at Living Water Lutheran Church in Oshkosh, WI. He graduated from the Seminary in 2024 and received his divine call to serve here at Grace Lutheran Church.

Cait Henning (née Eisner) was born in Racine, WI and was baptized at First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Her parents are Charles Eisner (Valders, WI) and Nancy Schultz (Morrison, WI). Cait grew up in Port Washington, WI and was confirmed at St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church. She attended Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson, WI.

Cait attended Martin Luther College, then finished her studies at Western Governors University and graduated with a degree in Education. She served for two years as 3K and 4K teacher at Trinity Lutheran in Belle Plaine and for one year as 1st grade teacher at Risen Savior Lutheran School, East Campus, in Milwaukee, WI. Currently, Cait is pursuing her master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN.

Ryan and Cait met at MLC and connected over their mutual love of music through College Choir, theatre performances, and music classes. They got married in 2018. For the past four years, they have attended Cait's childhood church in Port Washington, WI, where Cait served as choir director and Ryan served as organist and frequently assisted and preached in worship. In their free time, Ryan and Cait can be found curled up with a good book, attending touring Broadway musicals, and frequenting local restaurants. They also have a 3 ½-year-old corgi named Eleanor (Ellie). Ryan and Cait are excited to begin their ministry here in Manitowoc and look forward to the many opportunities for spiritual growth, community outreach, and connection with this wonderful family of faith.



# Member Ministry Corner



## Faith and Deeds

When was the last time someone went out of his/her way to do something good for you? I'm sure we can all think of a time when that made a lasting impression on us. What did that act of service mean to you? I'm guessing that you probably felt valued and loved.

I'm sure you've also been on the giving end of this scenario and gone out of your way to do something good for someone else. How did it make you feel to make someone else feel valued and loved? If that person appreciated your kind gesture, I'm willing to bet that you also felt good about helping out.

But what kinds of things might keep us from putting our faith into action and doing something good for others in our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and other parts of our lives? Perhaps we are very busy with activities and our own schedules and agendas. Maybe we just don't really know what people need. Perhaps we're just a little bit selfish.

James tells us in chapter 2 verses 14-17, *"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed', but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

The questions in this reading imply that faith without works is simply no good. Faith and good works need to be interconnected. The lifestyle of a Christian should verify his or her faith, not because it's what we are **supposed** to do, but because our love for Jesus moves us to **want** to do those things. Jesus shines through us as we live out our faith. Jesus himself was a doer and an equipper. His love for others clearly showed in everything he did while he was here on earth. So, too, for us there should be a faith/works balance in our life. We need to **live** out our faith, not just **talk** about it.

James gives us an illustration of the emptiness of words without actions. His illustration echoes Jesus' teaching concerning people who help the needy and people who do not. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus taught that not serving people in need is the same as not serving Him, and vice versa. As followers of Christ who seek to honor Him, we are called to serve Christ by serving and ministering to those in need.

1 John 3:16 says, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." Some words we could use to describe love from Jesus' example in this verse might be *selfless, uncomfortable, requires risk*. How does Jesus' example differ from our contemporary notions of love? Many times, we just tend to do what is easy for us, so we could say that Jesus' love is unconditional while ours often times tends to be conditional. When we understand that Jesus came to die and that God gave him for that purpose, that helps us understand God's love for man! Our own children are our most treasured things. We would all do just about anything for our own children because we love them so much! Think, then, how much more our loving Father in heaven must love us! We cannot even begin to wrap our brains around the amount of love our Father has for us individually! It's radical and humbling!

As leaders, we look to put others' needs in front of our own. So, leadership is not about what "others do for me" but what "I do for them." Jesus can work with anyone. After all, his own disciples started out as fishermen. We need to model that and do what we say and what we are asking others to do. May God's example of love for ALL people lead us to love like Jesus' loves!

***Heidi Malley, Member Ministry Coordinator***



## FUN FACTS TO KNOW AND TRADE...

**Church Picnic:** Our Grace church picnic will be Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup> following an outdoor worship service. Worship time has yet to be determined. All are invited to come to the potluck meal and stay for fellowship time, games, and fun!



**Jesus Cares Ministry VBS Help Needed:** The date for the half-day JCM VBS at Grace this year is **July 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M.** We will be using the same “**Stellar**” theme that was used last year. We will be choosing one day out of that curriculum so it should be very familiar. If you would like to help, call Erin Kolar at 860-3656 or Denise Haese at 901-2242. We are looking for Station Leaders, Crew Leaders, and general helpers as well.

**Facebook Page:** Did you know we have a Facebook page? Just go to our page at Grace Lutheran Church Manitowoc and click the “LIKE” button to get notifications of posts for updates on events, Bible studies, and other things going on here at Grace.

**Grace Website:** Check out our website at [www.gracelutheran-church.com](http://www.gracelutheran-church.com) for links on the top of the page to view our monthly calendar and newsletter. There are also links in the middle of the page to our live streaming, archived services, and weekly bulletins. This is a great way to keep up with things here at Grace if you are out of town for the weekend!

**Altar Flowers at Grace:** Would you consider furnishing a flower arrangement for the altar? Arrangements can be given in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a blessing in your life (birthday, anniversary, etc.). You pick the weekend, call any florist to order the flowers, and sign up on the Flower Chart on the table in the fellowship hall. You can have the flowers delivered to church on your specific week's Friday, or pick them up and drop them off here. If you would like to have something in the bulletin that weekend about what the flowers are for, please let Lori in the office know a few weeks earlier. For more information, please call Karolyn Schultz at 682-9692.

**Homework help and reading at InCourage:** InCourage (domestic abuse and treatment center) has a new children's advocate who is looking for volunteers interested in the following: **1)** Coming in and having reading time with the kids on a regular basis – pick your own schedule. **2)** Homework help 1-2 nights/week during the school year. **3)** Helping with support groups for the kids with activities focused on emotions. **4)** Helping with monthly family fun nights. If you are interested in hearing more about any of these things, please contact Heidi at [gracelutheran2@tm.net](mailto:gracelutheran2@tm.net), or email Melissa Charles at [melissa.charles@incouragewi.org](mailto:melissa.charles@incouragewi.org).

**WELS Women's Ministry Conference:** On behalf of Women's Ministry, you're invited to get away and be “Empowered to Proclaim”. The conference will be held **July 28-30, 2024**, at **The Ingleside Hotel in Waukesha**. For more info., see displays in fellowship hall. Register at [WELSWMCONFERENCE.NET](http://WELSWMCONFERENCE.NET). For reimbursement for this leadership development opportunity please see Heidi Malley.

**Encouragement Opportunity:** Are you looking for a way to serve God's kingdom while sitting at your desk? Our WELS Prison Ministry is in need of test correctors for our Bible correspondence course for inmates. Correctors are sent sheets which inmates have filled out, and an answer key. Correctors give encouragement to inmates as they correct the answers. It is easy and a way to give hope to those who are incarcerated. If you are interested in this way to serve in God's kingdom, contact Bob Fink at 920-860-3604 or [rlf54220@yahoo.com](mailto:rlf54220@yahoo.com).

# Member Spotlight

## Jim & Shawn Smith

Jim and Shawn Smith joined Grace Church in September 2011. They transferred from St. John's in Two Rivers. Jim grew up in a large family in Two Rivers, while Shawn is from Appleton. They met at a mutual friend's house party, dated for 2 and 1/2 years, and got married in October 2003. They reside in Two Rivers. Jim has two sons: Victor, who has 3 children and lives in Appleton, and Nathaniel, who lives in Manitowoc.



After graduating from Washington High School in TR, Jim served in the Air Force for almost 11 years. He worked at a mink ranch during his high school years, and after his military service, he has worked as an over-the-road truck driver, in a foundry, as a construction truck driver, and at machine shops. For the last 5 years, he has worked as a quality and calibration technician at Velocity Machine in DePere. Shawn attended Xavier High School in Appleton and then obtained a teaching degree from the UW college system. She worked as a 4K teacher for a while, but for the last 25+ years she has commuted to Appleton where she works as an accounts receivable specialist at Theda Care.

The Smiths are passionate about several hobbies they separately or jointly pursue. Shawn has many Mickey Mouse collectibles and enjoys reading and visiting museums and antique shops with Jim. Jim builds remote-controlled boats and submarines, some of which he maneuvers in the Manitowoc harbor. His fleet of 23 or so submarines are mostly from the WWII era; one of his subs is 10 feet long! He estimates that during his life he has also built over 500 car, plane, and truck models from plastic kits. He has many tools and a CNN machine in his shop to use in his woodworking hobby, and now he is enjoying putting his new 3D printer to use in constructing things for his grandchildren, Shawn, and himself. He recently fabricated some Mickey Mouse figurines for Shawn's collection.

The Smiths are well-traveled. As Disney Gold Members, they annually visit Disney World and travel on Disney cruises usually once a year to places such as St. Thomas, St. John, the Bahamas, Grand Cayman Islands, Jamaica, and Alaska.

Over the years the Smiths have found time to serve in different ways in the churches they have attended. Jim presently ushers at Grace; in the past he served on church councils at St John's in TR and at Grace. Shawn assisted him when they were in charge of scheduling our ushers and greeters, and she serves as one of our greeters. Jim enjoyed being a choir member at St. John's, and he shared his model-making knowledge about boats with children in Pioneer programs at 3 area churches. Shawn's teaching degree has benefited our church, as she has taught in our Sunday School and been a VBS helper; now she is involved in our area Jesus Cares Ministry program.

We thank Jim and Shawn for their dedicated service to the Lord in our church and elsewhere over the years. Ask Jim about his 3D printer and Shawn about her Mickey Mouse collectibles; they would be glad to talk to any of us about their hobbies and travels.

Pastor Henning's wife, Cait, would like to organize and direct a choir at Grace Lutheran Church if there is enough interest shown from our members. We would like our Grace members to respond to the church office with answers to two questions so that choir interest might be determined. Those questions are:

- 1) Are you interested in singing with the Grace Lutheran Church choir?
- 2) What evenings (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday) would work best for practice?

Please consider being a part of this important group! The office staff is waiting to hear your reply!

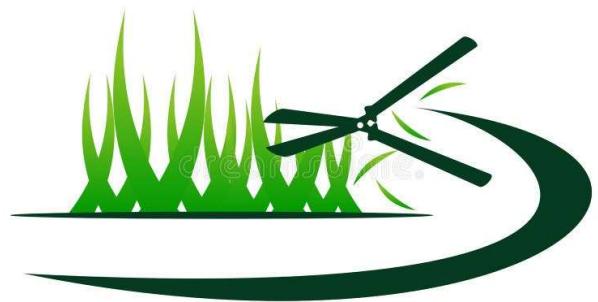


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**June 30 - July 6 - Jerry Krueger**  
**July 7 - 13 - Egerer Family**  
**July 14 - 20 - Dave Bergquist**  
**July 21 - 27 - Tod Hauf**  
**July 28 - Aug.3 - Neil Conradt**

**Thank You Very Much!**

## **Grace Lutheran Lawn Mowing**



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**July 6<sup>th</sup> - Chuck Bast**  
**July 13<sup>th</sup> - Egerer Family**  
**July 20<sup>th</sup> - Greg and Lori Stuebs**  
**July 27<sup>th</sup> - Tod Hauf**

**Thank You Very Much!**



**Vacuuming Schedule**



# Happy July Birthdays



NAME	BIRTHDAY	NAME	BIRTHDAY
Sawyer Stubbe	7/1	Renae Downing	7/17
Sydney Stubbe	7/1	Bruce Matthias	7/18
Andrea Kappelman	7/2	Rhonda <u>Radzinske</u>	7/19
Joe Blashka	7/3	Linden Stuebs	7/20
Debbie Brick	7/3	Rebekah Fagan	7/21
Don Graupner	7/3	Heleena Seiler	7/21
Travis Fitzgerald	7/4	Erin Kolar	7/22
Eldora Whitehouse	7/6	Andra Revak	7/23
Samuel Kolar	7/7	Wendy Krueger	7/24
Jim Pearson	7/7	Sophie Prado	7/24
Brylee Kupsky	7/8	Erin Lohmeier	7/27
Chad Seiler	7/8	Kevin Duveneck	7/29
Jenny Remiker	7/9	Karen Schramm	7/30
Roger Zipperer	7/10	Carol Stubbe	7/30
Rachel Holper	7/14	Betty Lohmeier	7/31
Carson Zutz	7/14	Juliana Picchiottino	7/31
Brent Rezba	7/15		





# July Ushers and Greeters – With Our Thanks!

DATE	COMMUNION ASSIST.	USHERS	GREETERS
July 1 - Mon		Dave Bergquist (905-063)	
July 7 – 9am	Tod Hauf (860-2221)	Ken Peroutka (973-6580)	Laverne Mattes
July 8 – Mon		Dave Kappelman (370-3759)	Mary Hassemer
July 14 – 9am		Wayne Pearson (905-0630)	Michael Krause
July 15 - Mon		Steve Malley (973-1987)	
July 21 – 9am	Bruce Wigand (323-3703)	Jim Pearson (374-9384)	Tammy Brunner
July 22 - Mon		Dave Bergquist (905-4945)	
July 28 – 9am		Jim Smith (629-3531)	Shawn Smith
July 29 - Mon		Kent Langman (684-4062)	Donna Langman

## Your Church Coordinating Council

Position	Name	Phone Number	Email Address
President	<b>Steve Janke</b>	(262) 352-8742	<a href="mailto:sjanke76@gmail.com">sjanke76@gmail.com</a>
Finance - Interim	<b>Robert Fink</b>	(920) 860-3604	<a href="mailto:rlf54220@yahoo.com">rlf54220@yahoo.com</a>
Property	<b>Mike Remiker</b>	(920) 901-0768	<a href="mailto:remy.2021.201@gmail.com">remy.2021.201@gmail.com</a>
Education	<b>Tod Hauf</b>	(920) 860-2221	<a href="mailto:tahauf@att.net">tahauf@att.net</a>
Worship	<b>Tom Meineke</b>	(920) 323-5151	<a href="mailto:tdmeineke@sbcglobal.net">tdmeineke@sbcglobal.net</a>
Member Care	<b>Derrick Gossen</b>	(920) 619-1750	<a href="mailto:derrick.gossen@fmglobal.com">derrick.gossen@fmglobal.com</a>
Outreach	<b>Bruce Bitter</b>	(920) 901-8160	<a href="mailto:brucebitter57@gmail.com">brucebitter57@gmail.com</a>

**MILWAUKEE BREWERS**

# WELS NIGHT

AT THE BREWERS

**FRI, 7/12**  **VS**  **7:10 PM**

**ORDER NOW**

[wels.net/brewers2024](https://wels.net/brewers2024)



**Have A Wonderful Month of July!**

**God's Blessings to You All!**